

ARTICLES
CONCERNING
Matters Ecclesiastical;
To be Enquired of within the
DIOCESE
OF
LINCOLN,
AT THE
PRIMARY VISITATION
OF THE
Right Reverend Father in God
JAMES
Lord Bishop of that Diocese.

Anno Domini 1697.

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Bookseller, at the Star in Ludgate-street. 1697.

The Form of the Oath to be Administred to the Church-VVar-dens & Side-men of every Parish.

YOU shall Swear to make True Presentment, according to the Book of Articles given You in Charge, as far as You know, and by Law You are Bound, without Fear or Favour of any Person.

So help You God.

ARTI-

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CONCERNING

Matters Ecclesiastical, &c.

IN

The Diocese of *L I N C O L N*.

T I T. I.

Concerning Churches, and Chappels, and the Furniture belonging to them.

1. **I**S your Parish-Church or Chappel well and sufficiently repaired, the Windows glazed, not stopped up, the Floor evenly paved, and the Seats convenient for Kneeling and Sitting, and the whole Church clean and Decent? 1. Canon 82.

2. Is there in the Church or Chappel a Font of Stone with a Cover to it, standing in the usual Place? Is there a decent Communion Table in your Chancel, covered in time of Divine-Service, with a Carpet of Silk or Stuff, and, at the time of Administring the Holy Communion, with a fair Linnen Cloth? have you a Patin for the Bread, and a Chalice for the Wine with a Cover, 2. Canon 81, 82.

and one or more Flaggons preserved and kept for this Use, and not imployed for any other?

3. Canon 58. 3. Have you a decent Surplice for the Minister to use at the time of Divine Service, provided and duly washed at the charge of the Parish?

4. Canon 83, 80. 4. Have you in the Church or Chappel a convenient Seat or Pew for the Reading of Divine Service; a Pulpit with a Cloath or Cushion; a Large Bible of the last Translation; Two Books of Common-prayer for the Minister and Clerk, well Bound; The Book of Homilies set forth by Authority; The Book of Canons; A Printed Table of the Degrees wherein Marriages are prohibited?

5. Canon 70. 5. Have you a Register-Book of Parchment of the Day and Year of all Christenings, Weddings and Burials in your Parish; Also a Book for the Church-wardens Accounts, and a strong Chest with Locks and Keys wherein to keep all the said Books, and the forementioned Furniture?

TIT. II.

Concerning the Church-yard, Houses, Glebe, Tithes and Possessions belonging to the Church.

1. Canon 85. I. **I**S your Church-yard sufficiently fenced, and carefully kept with Walls, Pales, or Rails, as has been accustomed? are the Trees therein preserved? has any part of it been separated from it, or any Door made into it?

2. Lindwood de Eccles. Aedifi. 2. Is the House of the Parson, Vicar, or Curate, with all the Out-houses thereunto belonging, kept in good and sufficient Repair? Have any of the said Houses been defaced

defaced or pulled down without Licence, and by whom? Have any Incroachments been made upon the same, and by whom?

3. Have you a true Terrier of all the Gleab-lands, Meadows, Gardens, Orchards, Tenements or Cottages belonging to the Parsonage or Vicarage? Have you a particular of the Pensions, Rate-Tithes, and Portion of Tithes, either within or without your Parish, and other yearly Profits belonging to your Parsonage or Vicarage? Have any inclosures been made in your Parish to the Detriment of the Church, by the decay of Tillage; and converting Arable Land into Pasture? Is your Terrier entred in the Bishops Registry? 3. Canon 87.

TIT. III.

Concerning Ministers.

1. **I**S your Minister Episcopally ordained, and Licensed 1. Canon 36. by the Bishop himself? Hath he been legally inducted? and hath he Read the thirty nine Articles within the Time by Law appointed, and declared his Assent thereunto?

2. Is your Minister suspected to have obtained his Benefice by any Simoniackal Contract? 2. Canon 40.

3. Is your Minister constantly resident in the Parish? 3. Canon 45. does he Preach every Lords Day, unless hindred by sickness, or reasonable absence? How long in any one year hath he been absent from his Cure? Hath he a Licensed Curate to assist him in his absence or presence? and what Yearly Stipend doth he allow him? Doth he supply any other Cure besides, or hath he any other Ecclesiastical Benefice? 47.

4. Doth your Parson, Vicar or Curate, in reading the 4. Act of Uniformity.
Morning

Morning and Evening Service; Administration of the Holy Sacraments, Celebration of Marriage, Churching of Women, Burial of the Dead, and Pronouncing Gods Commination against impenitent Sinners, use the form and words prescribed in the Book of Common-Prayer? doth he observe all such Rites and Ceremonies as are appointed in that Book, so far as you know?

5. Canon 53. 5. Doth your Minister at the Reading and Celebrating
Act of Uniformity. Divine Offices, wear the Surplice, together with the Habit suitable to his Degree? And doth he read the Service with an audible and distinct Voice?

6. Canon 21, 26. 6. Doth he frequently administer the Sacrament of the Lords-Supper, so often, as that every Parishioner may receive it thrice at the least in every year? And doth he keep back such as ought not to be admitted, giving an account of them to the Bishop?

7. Canon 59, 61. 7. Doth he diligently instruct the Youth of the Parish in the Church Catechism; and when they are instructed, doth he, as there is opportunity, present them to be confirmed by the Bishop?

8. Canon 67, 68, 69. Rubric. of Private Baptism. 8. Doth he neglect or refuse to Visit Sick Persons? Doth he delay to Baptize Infants that are in danger of Death? Or being so Baptized and recovering afterwards, does he take care that they be brought into the Church with Godfathers and Godmothers; that the Congregation may be satisfied of the Baptizing thereof? Is there any Child past Infancy, or other Persons grown up, who, through your Ministers default, remains yet Unbaptized in your Parish?

9. Canon 62, 63. Injunct. 9. Hath your Minister Married any Persons in private Houses? Or such as being under Age, have not the consent of Parents or Guardians? or without the publication of Banns, unless by a License duly obtained? Or at any other hours than between eight and twelve a Clock

Clock in the Forenoon? Or, at any hour, any Persons that are prohibited to Marry according to the Table of Marriage? Or such as neither of them dwell in the Parish?

10. Doth your Minister publish the Holy days and Fasting days, and doth he read Divine Service appointed to be read those days? Doth he on the fifth of November yearly, after Morning Prayer or Sermon, read the Act for Publick Thanksgiving on that day? And doth he read the Act for the more effectual suppressing Prophane Cursing and Swearing, four several times in the year, on the four several Sundays appointed in that Act? 10. Canon 64.
3. Jac. 1. c. 1.
6. & 7. Gul. 3.

11. Is your Minister Sober, Grave and Peaceable in his Behaviour? Is he decent in his Apparel? Is he a frequenter of Taverns or Ale-Houses, a Common Gamester, a Swearer, Railer or Quarreller? Is he vehemently suspected of Incontinency with any Person either within the Parish or without? 11. Canon 74.
75.

12. Have you a Lecturer in your Church or Chappel? Is he Licensed according to the Act of Uniformity? Doth he, upon the first Lords day in every Month, read Divine Service, and Perform what the said Act requires? Hath he a Benefice with Cure of Souls elsewhere? if he have, where and at what distance? 12. Act of Uniformity.

T I T. IV.

Concerning the Parishioners.

1. **D**O the Parishioners when they come to Church or Chappel, behave themselves reverently during the time of Divine Service and Preaching? do they Kneel at the Prayers and Sacrament, and Stand up, when the Creeds and Gospel are read? Do they repeat the Confession, Lords-Prayer and Creeds with the Minister, and make such other Answers as are appointed 1. Canon 18.
Act of Uni-

pointed in the Book of Common-Prayer, and say *Amen* audibly at the conclusion of every Collect?

2. Can. 109. 2. Is there any Person in your Parish, who lieth under a common Fame or Suspicion of Adultery, Fornication or Incest? And there any common Drunkards, Swearers or Blatphemers of Gods Name? Or any that are noted to be filthy Talkers, Railers, Sowers of Sedition, Faction and Discord among their Neighbours?

3. 5. and 6. 3. Are there any of your Parish, who, upon Sundays
Ed. 6. 4. & 5. keep their Shops open, or follow their bodily and ordina-
Gul. & Mar. ry Labour, or permit their Servants so to do? Or do any Vintners, Innkeepers or other Victuallers, and Sellers of Beer or Ale, suffer any Person, to tipple or game in their Houses on that day?

4. Rubr. after the Com- 4. Are there any of your Parish that neglect or refuse
munion. to pay thier *Easter* Offering; ; or to pay the Rates sett
Canon 85. for the Repairs of the Church or Chappel, or any thing thereunto belonging?

5. Canon 99. 5. Are there any in your Parish who live as Man and Wife, that are known, or suspected not to be Married, or any Living as Man and Wife, who are within the degrees prohibited?

6. 6. Have any Legacies been left to your Church or Chappel, or to the Minister, or to the Poor, or for any other Pious or Charitable use, that have been unpaid, mis-spent, or embezzelled?

7. Canon 19. 7. Are there any that Loiter in the Church-yard or near
Act for ex- the Church, in time of Divine Service or Sermon? Or
empt. Prot. any that wholly neglect all Publick Worship of God, nei-
Dissent. ther going to Church, nor to any Assembly pretending to Worship God elsewhere, in Places licenced according to a late Act for exempting his Majesties Protestant Subjects dissenting from the Church of *England*, from the Penalties of certain Laws?

8. Have

8. Have you any such Assembly of Dissenters in your Parish? Do they, so far as you know, observe the Directions and Limitations of the aforesaid Act?

9. Are there any who profess to live in the Communion of the Church of *England*, who neglect to come to the Sacrament of the Lords-Supper, being of Age fit to receive it? 9. Can. 112.

10. Do you know, or have you heard of any in your Parish, who having a Presentation of an Ecclesiastical Living, hath made any *Simoniack* Compact or Gain thereby, either in Moneys, or by reserve of any part of the Tithes or Glebe belonging to the Benefice?

11. Have any Pews, Galleries or Seats been erected in your Church or Chappel, without License from the Ordinary? Is there any Strife or Contention about Seats in your Church? or any Seats broken and unrepaired?

T I T. V.

Concerning Ecclesiastical Officers,

1. **H**AVE any Ordinaries or Ecclesiastical Judges appointed Surrogates or Registrars, that are Promoters or Assisters of Clandestine Marriages, or have taken Rewards or Gifts for perverting Justice, or are noted for Intemperance, Incontinence, or other Scandalous Vice? 1. Can. 127.

2. Do any Ecclesiastical Judges, Officials or Surrogates, grant Licenses to any Minister coming to reside in this Diocese to Preach, Read, Catechize, or Administer the Sacraments, or to exercise any other Ecclesiastical Function, unless he first consent, and subscribe to the three Articles in Can. 36. in the Presence of the Bishop? 2. Can. 37.

3. Do the said Ecclesiastical Officers, when a Benefice

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is

is vacant, commit Sequestrations to honest and sufficient Men, that do answer and account truly for the Profits during the Vacancy? Are the Parishes provided with able Ministers during the Vacancy?

4. Can. 123. 4. Do any Ecclesiastical Judges, speed any Judicial Act, without the Registrar of the Court, or his lawful Deputy, or in their absence, without such Persons as are allowed in that behalf?

5. Can. 126. 5. Do the Officers in Peculiar Jurisdictions and Inferiour Courts, exhibit the Original Copies of Wills into the Principal Register-Office?

6. Canon. An. 1571. 6. Hath any Ecclesiastical Officer commuted the Penance of any Delinquent convicted? How has the Money been disposed of?

7. Can. 135. 7. Hath any Ecclesiastical Officer demanded and taken any unlawful Fees that you know of?

T I T. VI.

Concerning Parish Clerks and Sextons.

1. Canon 91. 1. **H**AVE you a Parish Clerk aged 21 years at least? Is he of an honest Life and Conversation? Is he sufficiently qualified to perform his Duty in Reading and Singing? Is he chosen by your Minister? Doth he duly attend him in all Divine Services in the Church? Are his Wages duly paid him? Or who with-holds the same from him?

2. Doth your Sexton perform his Duty diligently, in keeping the Church and Chancel clean and decent, and Tolling and Ringing the Bells, at due times before Divine Service, as well upon other days, as upon Sundays?

TIT. VII.

Concerning Hospitals, Schools, School-Masters, &c.

1. **I**S there in your Parish any Hospital, Almshouse, ^{1. Canon 77,}
 or Free School? who was the Founder, and is now ^{78, 79.}
 the Patron thereof? Are the Revenues thereof rightly
 Employed, according to the Intention of the Founder,
 and the Statutes and Orders made concerning the same?

2. Doth any Man keep School in your Parish who is ^{2.}
 not Licensed thereunto by the Bishop? Is your School-
 master a Diligent and Sober Man? Does he teach his
 Scholars the Church Catechism? Does he cause them to
 repair to the Church or Chappel on Sundays, and other
 Days, when there is Divine Service, and see that they
 behave themselves quietly and reverently?

3. Doth any Man in your Parish practise Physick or ^{3. 3 Hen. 8.}
 Chirurgery, or any Woman exercise the Office of a ^{11.}
 Midwife without License from the Ordinary?

TIT. VIII.

Concerning Church-Wardens and Side-Men.

1. **A**RE the Church-Wardens yearly and duly chosen ^{1. Canon 89.}
 by the joint consent of your Minister and Pari-
 shioners, or one of them by your Minister, and the other
 by the Parishioners?

2. Have the former and last Church Wardens given a ^{2. ibid.}
 true Account of the Moneys they have received, and
 laid out for the use of the Church? And have they de-
 livered up the Moneys remaining in their hands, (if any

be) to the succeeding Church-Wardens, together with all other things belonging to your Church or Chappel?

3. Canon 18. 3. Do they suffer no mis-behaviour or disorder to be done by Men or Women, Servants or Children, by walking or talking, or any other way, in your Church or Chappel?

4. Canon 20. 4. Do the Minister and Church-Wardens provide against every Communion appointed in your Church or Chappel a sufficient quantity of fine white Bread, and good Wine, according to the number of Communicants, at the Charge of the Parish?

5. Rubr. after the Communion. 5. Is the Money given at the Offertory, disposed of to Pious and Charitable Uses, as the Minister and Church-Wardens think fit?

FINIS.

